



Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!



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Most U.S. adults think individual choices keep people in poverty, a new AP-NORC/Harris poll finds

By **CLAIRE RUSH and LINLEY SANDERS**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Most U.S. adults think personal choices are a major driver of poverty and homelessness, according to a new poll, while fewer blame a lack of government support.

However, just over half also think the government spends too little on those in need, the new poll from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research shows.

The poll comes as homelessness is on the rise and as officials across the country, including Republican President Donald Trump in the nation's capital, push to clear encampments where unhoused people live. At the same time, the GOP tax and spending cut bill signed into law by Trump in July is expected to reduce benefits for low-income people.

"It seems like people are a little conflicted," said Bruce Meyer, a professor at the University of Chicago Harris School who helped craft and analyze the poll. "I think people probably realize, in part at least, the complexity of what leads people to get in trouble in terms of their economic circumstances."

And I think a lot of people are generous at heart and will help people out and think the government should as well, even when individuals aren't blameless."

Most see homelessness and poverty as a rising problem

Most U.S. adults 68% say poverty has increased in the country as a whole over the past 25 years, while 19% say it's stayed the same and about 12% say it has decreased.

People living in urban areas, such as 60-year-old Baltimore resident Dwayne Byrd, are more likely to say poverty has increased in their local community, compared with people in suburban or rural areas.



In this photo illuminated by an off-camera flash, a woman walks past a homeless person's tent with a chair in downtown Los Angeles, Feb. 16, 2023.

Associated Press

"It's dilapidated buildings, dirty streets, businesses closing up left and right," Byrd said of the poverty in his city.

"You got to choose between keeping the lights on and putting something in your belly. ... People with jobs don't have enough money."

Yet the rate of people living under the poverty line has actually decreased "by almost every measure" over the past 25 years, according to Meyer, the University of Chicago professor.

The discrepancy between the poverty data and Americans' perceptions may stem from the fact that unsheltered homelessness has increased.

"It is the most visible form of poverty," Meyer said. "I think, quite reasonably, people are extrapolating from what they see in the way of people in tents and on sidewalks. But that is very different from the bulk of the low-income population."

About 8 in 10 Americans say that homelessness has increased in the United States over the last 25 years, and roughly 7 in 10 say it's increased in their state.

Slightly more than half 55% say it's increased in their own community.

According to federal officials, homelessness increased 18% last year, driven largely by a lack of affordable housing as well as devastating natural disasters and a surge of migrants in several parts of the country.

That rise came on top of a 12% increase in 2023, which federal housing officials blamed on soaring rents and the end of coronavirus pandemic assistance.

"I've never seen as many homeless camps," said Pittsburgh resident Ashlyn White, a 38-year-old Democrat. "After COVID is when they really start popping up."

More support than opposition for removing homeless encampments

More Americans favor than oppose removing homeless encampments in U.S. cities, the poll found. About 43% U.S. adults favor their removal, while about 25% oppose it. Roughly 3 in 10 Americans don't have an opinion, saying they neither favor nor oppose removing the encampments.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last year that cities can enforce bans on people sleeping outside in public places.

Most Republicans, 64%, favor removing homeless

encampments, while independents and Democrats are divided, with a substantial share saying they don't have an opinion.

"There does need to be some sort of rules," said Ami Tate, a 43-year-old resident of Hesperia, California, who leans conservative, adding that "the government also needs to help out."

White, the Pittsburgh resident, said she opposed removing encampments.

"Where are these people supposed to go?" she said, noting that shelters are often full.

Meanwhile, in Fort Collins, Colorado, 61-year-old Rob Haas, who describes himself as a moderate who leans Democrat, strongly favors encampment removals.

"I just think it's bad for the homeless to be in that type of environment, and I think it's bad for us to tolerate that," he said.

Divisions over root causes

About 6 in 10 Americans say personal choices are a "major factor" in why people remain in poverty, while just under half say unfair systems are a major factor and about 4 in 10 blame lack of government support.

Most Republicans, 77%, say personal choices are

a "major factor" in why people remain in poverty, compared with 56% of independents and 49% of Democrats.

Adam Kutzer, a 22-year-old living in Cranford, New Jersey, said not paying off credit card debt or spending too much money were examples of "poor financial choices that can clearly be avoided."

Democrats, meanwhile, are much likelier than Republicans or independents to say lack of government support is a "major factor."

When it comes to homelessness, most Americans are likely to see substance abuse and mental health issues as key drivers, with about three-quarters citing them as a "major factor." Still, about 6 in 10 adults say that personal choices are responsible, with a similar share blaming a lack of affordable housing.

Just under half of U.S. adults 45% believe a lack of government support is a major factor in why people are homeless.

Who's responsible for addressing the issues?

A majority of Americans 54% believe that the government is spending "too little" on assistance for those in need.

That includes Tate, the Hesperia resident, who said more money should go toward school programs and helping children in low-income communities.

Americans are also more likely to think federal and state governments have a major role to play in tackling homelessness and poverty, compared with charities or very wealthy individuals.

About 4 in 10 U.S. adults say federal and state government have "a great deal" of responsibility for addressing poverty and homelessness, compared with about one-quarter who say this about charities or very wealthy people.

In Tate's view, state and local governments "should be figuring out an action plan of how to ... get people off the streets." □

RFK Jr.'s latest 'Make America Healthy Again' report calls for more scrutiny of vaccines and autism

By **AMANDA SEITZ**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is imploring the nation's public health agencies to prioritize investigations of vaccine injuries, prescription drug use, and the cause of autism in a new "Make America Healthy Again" report focused on children released on Tuesday.

The 20-page report, overseen by Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., promises to put an end to childhood diseases in the U.S. by re-focusing the nation's public health agencies on the topics that those in Kennedy's wide-ranging and politically diverse "MAHA" movement have demanded the government prioritize.

His renewed push to investigate vaccine injuries could deepen a clash between Kennedy and the public health agencies he oversees, which have been up-ended by mass layoffs and disagreements over his controversial policies.

Kennedy is releasing his blueprint for healthy children after weeks of tumult prompted by disagreements over vaccine policy at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that resulted in the director's firing and other top leaders walking out on the job. Just last week, senators grilled Kennedy over his anti-vaccine agenda and his leadership of the public health agencies. Kennedy's latest report, released on Tuesday, does not make regulatory changes. Instead, it calls for the government agencies to further research a wide range of issues related to Americans' health, though it lays out no plans for funding that research. The National Institutes of Health, which is facing a 40% cut to its budget, is tasked with undertaking much of the MAHA-related research in the report.

Under Kennedy's plan, the government would ramp up investigations of vaccine injuries and develop



Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr., appears before the Senate Finance Committee, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025.

Associated Press

a framework to ensure "America has the best childhood vaccine schedule" that is simultaneously "addressing vaccine injuries."

The nation's health agencies already investigate vaccine injuries that are reported by individuals or providers, but Kennedy has repeatedly criticized the current process.

An earlier version of the report was first leaked and publicized in August. Slight changes have been made to the final draft, which was developed by a "MAHA" commission that included Kennedy and other members of the president's cabinet.

Despite pledging "radical transparency," the commission never held a public meeting ahead of the report's release.

Among the differences in the final version of the report released on Tuesday is a call for the National Institutes of Health to use personal medical records and health insurance claims data to investigate the cause of diseases and disorders, including autism.

"The NIH will link multiple datasets, such as claims information, electronic health records, and wearables data, into a single integrated dataset for researchers studying the causes of, and developing treatments for,

the chronic disease crisis," the report says.

Kennedy has vowed for months that he would unveil the cause of autism, a complex developmental disorder that impacts the brain, by September. He has promised to execute a massive research effort to identify the disorder's causes, but has stayed mum on details regarding who is conducting that research and when it will be released.

Last month, President Donald Trump pressed Kennedy for his findings during a cabinet meeting.

Those who have spent decades researching autism have found no single cause. □

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New Chicago immigration campaign prompts confusion as city braces for federal intervention

By SOPHIA TAREEN

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The Department of Homeland Security trumpeted the start of a new immigration operation Monday in Chicago, stirring up fresh confusion and anxiety as the city remained on alert for a federal intervention President Donald Trump has touted for days. Blasting so-called sanctuary laws in Chicago and Illinois, the latest effort targets people without legal permission to live in the U.S. who have criminal records. Like other Trump administration plans, it was stamped with a splashy name, "Operation Midway Blitz," and circulated on social media with the mugshots of 11 foreign-born men it said should be deported.

"This ICE operation will target the criminal illegal aliens who flocked to Chicago and Illinois because they knew Governor (JB) Pritzker and his sanctuary policies would protect them and allow them to roam free on American streets," said a statement from DHS. Pritzker, who has been locked in a back-and-forth with Trump for days, criticized the move. He and Mayor Brandon Johnson have defended the state



A person talks to a masked guard at the entrance of an immigration processing center Monday, Sept. 8, 2025, in Broadview, Ill., a suburb of Chicago.

Associated Press

and city's extensive sanctuary laws which bar coordination between local police and immigration agents. They've accused the Trump administration of using scare tactics, particularly with Latino residents in the nation's third-largest city. "Once again, this isn't about fighting crime. That requires support and coordination yet we've experienced nothing like that over the past several weeks," Pritzker said in a statement.

"Instead of taking steps to work with us on public safety, the Trump administration's focused on scaring Illinoisians." Chicago has been bracing for an influx of immigration agents and possibly the National Guard for two weeks. Numerous protests have cropped up downtown, outside a suburban military base DHS plans to use and at an immigration processing center that's expected to be a hub of activity.

Trump deployed the National Guard to Los Angeles over the summer and as part of his unprecedented law enforcement takeover in Washington, D.C., where he has direct legal control. For the federal intervention in Los Angeles, a judge deemed the National Guard deployment illegal, but the Trump administration got a victory related to immigration enforcement there when the U.S. Supreme Court lifted a restraining

order barring agents there from stopping people solely based on their race, language, job or location.

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, the Senate's No. 2 Democrat, rejected the latest operation announced in Chicago.

"These actions don't make us safer," he said in a statement.

"They are a waste of money, stoke fear, and represent another failed attempt at a distraction."

It remained unclear what role Monday's announced program would play in a Chicago surge.

Adding to the confusion was a handful of immigration arrests over the weekend in Chicago, which galvanized the city's vocal activist network and worries that it was the start of something bigger.

"This is about terrorizing our communities," said Chicago City Council member Jeylú Gutiérrez said. "But we will not be intimidated."

She and immigrant rights activists said that five people arrested were "beloved community members." Some were on their way to work when arrested Sunday. Another works as a flower vendor. □

Man pleads guilty to charges that he meant to blow up a Nashville power site with a bomb-laden drone

By JONATHAN MATTISE

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A 24-year-old man with ties

to white nationalist groups pleaded guilty Tuesday to charges that he attempted to use a drone to bomb

a Nashville electricity substation, according to prosecutors.

Skyler Philippi, of Columbia, Tennessee, pleaded guilty to attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction and attempting to destroy an energy facility, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Tennessee said in a statement. He faces up to life in prison at his Jan. 8 sentencing.

"For months, Philippi planned what he had hoped would be a devastating attack on Nashville's energy infrastructure. He acquired what he believed to be explosives, surveilled his target, and

equipped a drone to attack an electrical substation.

Motivated by a violent ideology, Philippi wanted 'to do something big.' Instead, the FBI disrupted his plans, and Philippi now awaits sentencing," Assistant Attorney General for National Security John A. Eisenberg said in the statement.

Philippi's lawyer, R. David Baker, didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

Philippi told a confidential FBI source in July 2024 that he wanted to attack several electricity substations to "shock the system,"

an FBI agent wrote in the criminal complaint. That source later introduced Philippi to an undercover FBI employee, who began to collect information about Philippi's plan with other undercover agents. In November 2024, Philippi and undercover employees drove to his intended Nashville launch site and prepared to fly a drone that authorities say Philippi believed had 3 pounds (1.4 kilograms) of C-4 plastic explosive attached to it.

The material had been provided by the undercover employees, according to prosecutors. □



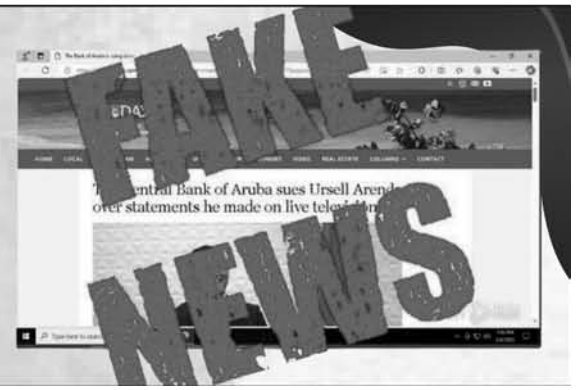
The Nashville, Tenn. skyline is seen July 15, 2025.

Associated Press

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Macron appoints Defense Minister Lecornu as France's latest prime minister

By SYLVIE CORBET

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French President Macron late Tuesday appointed Defense Minister Sébastien Lecornu as France's new prime minister and tasked him with immediately trying to get the country's fractious political parties to agree on a budget for one of the world's biggest economies.

Lecornu, 39, was the youngest defense minister in French history and architect of a major military buildup through 2030, spurred by Russia's war in Ukraine.

A longtime Macron loyalist, Lecornu is now France's fourth prime minister in barely a year.

A former conservative who joined Macron's centrist movement in 2017, Lecornu has held posts in local governments, overseas territories and during Macron's yellow vest "great debate," when he helped manage mass anger with dialogue. He also offered talks on autonomy during unrest in Guadeloupe in



French Defense Minister Sébastien Lecornu, left, receives President Emmanuel Macron at the 55th International Paris Airshow at Le Bourget Airport near Paris, June 20, 2025.

2021.

His rise reflects Macron's instinct to reward loyalty, but also the need for continuity as repeated budget showdowns have toppled his predecessors and left France in drift.

Macron's quick decision to name Lecornu comes ahead of a day of mass dis-

ruption planned Wednesday by a protest movement called "Block Everything" that prompted the government to deploy an exceptional 80,000 police to keep order.

Legislators toppled Lecornu's predecessor Francois Bayrou and his government in a confidence vote

on Monday, a new crisis for Europe's second-largest economy.

Bayrou gambled that lawmakers would back his view that France must slash public spending to rein in its huge debts. Instead, they seized on the vote to gang up against the 74-year-old centrist who was appoint-

ed by Macron last December.

The demise of Bayrou's short-lived minority government heralds renewed uncertainty and a risk of prolonged legislative deadlock for France as it wrestles with pressing challenges, including budget difficulties and, internationally, wars in Ukraine and Gaza and the shifting priorities of U.S. President Donald Trump.

Drafting a budget will be a top priority for Lecornu, and normally a new prime minister would form the new government before negotiating the national spending in Parliament.

However, Macron has asked Lecornu to consult with all of the political parties in Parliament first to try to agree on a budget before assembling his team.

"The prime minister's action will be guided by the defense of our independence and our power, serving the French and the political and institutional stability for the unity of our country," Macron said in a statement. □

Associated Press

Iran and the IAEA are expected to resume cooperation under agreement backed by Egypt

By FATMA KHALED and STEPHANIE LIECHTENSTEIN

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency signed an agreement Tuesday in Cairo to pave the way for resuming cooperation, including on ways of relaunching inspections of Iran's nuclear facilities. The announcement followed a meeting among Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty, his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi and International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Rafael Grossi. The meeting came at a sensitive time as France, Germany and the United Kingdom on Aug. 28 began the process of reimposing sanctions on Iran over what

they have deemed non-compliance with a 2015 agreement aimed at preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

On July 2, Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian signed a law adopted by his country's parliament suspending all cooperation with the U.N. nuclear watchdog. That followed Israel's 12-day war with Iran in June, during which Israel and the U.S. struck Iranian nuclear sites.

The only site inspected by the IAEA since the war has been the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant, which operates with Russian technical assistance.

Inspectors watched a fuel replacement procedure at the plant over two days starting Aug. 27. □



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi looks on during a meeting with Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi, and Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty, at Tahrir Palace in Cairo, Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025.

Associated Press

Over 350 Greenlandic women and girls forcibly given contraception by Danish officials, report says

The Associated Press
COPENHAGEN, Denmark
(AP) — More than 350 Greenlandic Indigenous women and girls, including some 12 years old and younger, reported that they were forcibly given contraception by Danish health authorities in cases that date back to the 1960s, according to an independent investigation's findings released Tuesday. The Inuit victims, many of them teenagers at the time, were either fitted with intrauterine contraceptive devices, known as IUDs or coils, or given a hormonal birth control injection. They were not told details about the procedure, or did not give their consent. The victims described traumatic experiences that left some with feelings of shame as well as physical side effects, ranging from pain and bleeding to serious infections. The governments of Denmark and Greenland officially apologized in a statement last month for their roles in the historic mistreatment in an apparent attempt to get ahead of the highly anticipated report.



Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, right, and Greenland's Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen, right, during a statement at Marienborg, Denmark, April 27, 2025.

Associated Press

An official apology event in Greenland's capital is set for Sept. 24. Nearly 150 Inuit women last year sued Denmark and filed compensation claims against its health ministry, saying Danish health authorities violated their human rights. That case remains ongoing. While Tuesday's report covers the experiences of

more than 350 women who came forward to speak to the investigators, Danish authorities say more than 4,000 women and girls reportedly half the fertile women in Greenland at the time received IUDs between the 1960s and mid-1970s. The alleged purpose was to limit population growth in Greenland by prevent-

ing pregnancies. The population on the Arctic island was rapidly increasing at the time because of better living conditions and better health care. Greenland took over its own health care programs on Jan. 1, 1992. Centuries of dehumanizing policies The investigation's conclusion comes as Greenland

is in the headlines alongside U.S. President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly said he seeks U.S. jurisdiction over Greenland. He has not ruled out a military force to take control of the mineral-rich, strategically located Arctic island. The leaders of Denmark and Greenland say the island is not for sale. Denmark's foreign minister recently summoned the top U.S. diplomat in the country for talks after the main national broadcaster reported that at least three people with connections to Trump have been carrying out covert influence operations in Greenland. Greenland, which remains part of the Danish realm, was a colony under Denmark's crown until 1953, when it became a province in the Scandinavian country. In 1979, the island was granted home rule, and 30 years later Greenland became a self-governing entity. The forced contraception of Indigenous women and girls was part of centuries of Danish policies that dehumanized Greenlanders and their families. □

Ethiopia launches Africa's largest dam as neighbors eye power imports

By EVELYNE MUSAMBI, SAMUEL GETACHEW and AMANUEL GEBREMEDHIN BIRHANE
Associated Press
ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia
(AP) — Ethiopia on Tuesday inaugurated Africa's largest dam to boost the economy, end frequent blackouts and support the growth of electric vehicle development in a country that has banned the importation of gasoline-powered vehicles. As reservoir waters flowed into the turbines of the Grand Renaissance Dam, Ethiopians dressed in colorful regalia viewed the ceremony on large screens across the capital, Addis Ababa, and celebrated the achievement with

dancing to traditional music. "We will have enough power to charge our electric vehicles from the new dam," said Belay Tigabu,

a bus driver in Addis Ababa's main bus terminal. The almost \$5 billion megadam, located on a tributary of the River Nile in the northwest of the country,

near the border with Sudan, will produce more than 5,000 megawatts and is expected to double national electricity generation capacity, according to officials. Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, speaking during the launch, said the dam was a "big achievement" that would show the world what Africans are capable of accomplishing. Dozens of visiting African heads of state and government joined Abiy for the inauguration, with many expressing interest in importing power from Ethiopia. "I am proud to announce we will soon be signing an agreement with the government of Ethiopia to re-

ceive electricity from the dam that will benefit our hospitals and schools," said South Sudan's President Salva Kiir. Kenyan President William Ruto said his nation is looking to sign a power purchasing agreement with Ethiopia based on the resources of the dam project, which he said was a "pan-African statement." Already an importer of Ethiopia electricity, Ruto said Kenya is seeking to alleviate the electricity deficit his country is experiencing. He said the dam "exemplifies the scale and ambition of African-led infrastructure and aligns with the Africa Union's vision of continental energy connectivity." □



A view of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam in Benishangul-Gumuz, Ethiopia, Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025.

Associated Press

Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!

(Oranjestad)—If you've been to the northern coast of Aruba already, you've probably noticed how the ground differs entirely from the sandy beaches on the southern part of the island. These hard surfaces, with sharp bumps and holes are actually fossilized coral reefs, of which its growth and changes can be traced back to the last glacial period.

On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick Boyden from the Marum research faculty at the University of Bremen, Prof. dr. Alessio Rovere from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano, from the University of Bari Aldo Moro, presented their research on these fossilized coral reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health and formation patterns of these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded



and can respond to fluctuating sea levels or extreme weather, like hurricanes and tsunamis.

Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D

models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during the past hundred or even

thousands of years, and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly put things into perspective.

The ground on which we have walked many times on the northern part of the island hold such rich history, history that dates back to a time that most of us cannot even imagine. As the scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side are truly an incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide a clear view of how these reefs have formed.

This research is also important for the future of coral reefs on the island. By studying rising sea levels and climate impact on these coral reefs, we are able to take concrete action in protecting and preserve our coral reefs. So, if you are ever visiting one of the bocas or driving along the northern part of the island, please be conscious to help protect our natural historical remnant. Oh, and wear (coral-friendly) sunscreen! ☐

Aruba: The island of Aloes

ORANJESTAD – Aloe vera, a succulent plant species, is renowned for its incredible properties for the skin. It is widely distributed and usually grows in tropical, semi-tropical and arid climates on the planet. But this plant also had a very prominent role in the history of Aruba, and its significance to the island's economy endures to this day.

The leaves of Aloe vera contain a good amount of gel which when used topically, is great for the skin. Traditionally, Arubans use this gel to treat minor burns and other skin ailments, or just to keep skin supple and looking bright and nourished. Aside from the gel, aloe contains a bitter, yellow substance (called aloin) which is a gentle but powerful laxative, and it is also the origin of the industry of aloe in Aruba.

According to the website of Royal Aruba Aloe, Aloe vera was introduced in Aruba around 1840, when most of the island's inhabitants were farmers of little

means. Dutch Governor Van Raders introduced the plant after it had been introduced in other islands of the Caribbean to cultivate and harvest the aloe to produce the laxative.

Around 1920, about two-thirds of Aruba was aloe fields, earning our island the nickname "The Island of Aloes."

Under Commander Jan Helenus Ferguson (1866-1871), aloe experienced a boom, which is why there is a road named after him, which goes through the aloe fields. In the 19th century, Aruba was the main supplier of aloin for laxative, which was imported abroad to the United States and Europe. The aloin from Aruba and Curaçao was known to be one of the best in the world and was more expensive, which meant that at the time, it had significant economic impact, particularly for the local farmers.

However, by the time the oil industry arrived on Aru-

ba, it changed the labor market on Aruba, shifting away from agriculture. It would be after World War II that aloe would make a comeback. And eventually, as science learned about the amazing properties of aloe gel, the industry shifted from producing laxative to producing skin care. An interesting fact is that in 1951, the production of Aruban aloe amounted to around 30 percent of the total global production!

The impact and relevance of aloe is visible all around Aruba. While most homes will have a few plants for personal use and decoration, houses are also decorated with aloe motifs, and at some point, aloe even featured on post stamps. Around 1920, about two-thirds of Aruba was aloe fields, earning our island the nickname "The Island of Aloes." And in 1955, the aloe became a part of Aruba's coat of arms, symbolizing prosperity for the island. ☐

Images from the archive of the National Library of Aruba.





Create museum memories

Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you these locations.

Museum of Industry Aruba
Museum of Industry in San

Nicolas, better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum presents the history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower

was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments fund in 2003 so it could be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Fundacion Museo Arubano (FMA), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aru-



ban culture sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 1 pm.

For more information check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in downtown Oranjestad has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

In 1997 the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeo-

logical Museum project. In 2004 a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006 restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the new to build exhibition space. In December 2007 the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts an attractive public program including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm.

For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. □

Experience Aruban culture with this exciting theme night featuring a Carnival show, mixology bar, local artists and more. You can sample Aruban cuisine, including delicious BBQ options with a tropical twist. A local brass band will be performing, and you can pose with elaborately dressed Carnival dancers for a memorable photo op as well, so don't miss it.

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Blackstone Beach

(Oranjestad)—Named after its most recognizable feature, the Blackstone Beach almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it has black sand and is covered in black smooth stones. Secondly, it lies on the northern side of the island, away from the white sandy beaches of in the southern region. So, if you feel up for something different—or if it's opposite day, visit the Blackstone Beach.

Blackstone Beach shows the more natural side of Aruba:

the stones that cover the beaches and the shape of it has been crafted for thousand years via volcanic eruptions, coral reef movements and wave activity of the rural northern part of the island. Located further east to the Natural Bridge and Andicuri Beach, the Blackstone Beach is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed the Ayo Rock Formation, take the Andicuri road leading up to Andicuri Beach. There, you can park your car and take a 1km hike towards Blackstone Beach.

This beach forms part of the Arikok National Park and is therefore a site that is preserved. This is why it is also relatively untouched by commercial influences. Despite being called a beach, do note that it is not advised to swim in the water, as the current is very strong and can easily stray you further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern ocean that stretches out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family! □



Aruba's kite flying tradition



(Oranjestad)—Every year for King's Day, Arubans gather with friends and family to fly kites. Big or small, paper or plastic, blue skies fill up with these colorful flying contraptions, brightening our yearly celebration of the Dutch Monarch.

The tradition of flying kites starts at home in the weeks leading up to King's Day.

These kites were traditionally made with things found in the nearby mondi* and in the kitchen at home. Using dried up cactus sticks for the frame, old news papers, and glue made from flour, water and salt to dry faster (some people even use cornstarch slurry as glue), kids usually make their own kites with their friends, parents or other close family

members. Tails are made from old bed sheets, ripped and tied together to create a long string of fabric trailing behind the back end of the kite. To finish off the process, people used fish lines or thin rope to tie three corners of the kite together. Another long string of rope is tied in the knotted center and bundled up, used to steer the kite as it flies in the

air. Decorating the kite was especially important, and children would use paint to create their own designs—the more colorful, the better!

People usually fly their kites in big open fields, like empty soccer and baseball fields found all around the island around noon, when the sun is at its brightest.

In the past few years, kite flying has become a sport in which groups of people would battle against each other to see whose kite is

the biggest, the prettiest, and whose could fly flawlessly and longer in the air. For this year's celebration, Centro di Barrio Playa Pabao located in Madiki is organizing another edition of their kite flying event with different categories of height starting at 8AM.

Gather your family and be a part of this colorful Aruban tradition in celebration of our King Willem-Alexander's birthday!

*Mondi: Aruban woods. □





Article by Etnia Nativa

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The Price of Paradise: How Mass Tourism Is Unmaking Aruba

Episode CCCXX -320

We all know that tourism brings both benefits and drawbacks to local communities. While often seen as a benign form of economic development, it also carries the risk of cultural dislocation. Although tourism has not led to the extinction of native peoples, it can uproot communities and push ethnic minorities toward what some describe as 'cultural annihilation' or even cultural decimation.

In Aruba, the growing daily concerns of permanent residents—along with increasing complaints from returning visitors—suggest that something is going very wrong. This shift may be provoking a rise in tourist phobia. This was the focus of Episode 200: 'Small Island Destination', where we explored how Aruba increasingly reflects the model described by George V. Doney in 1975. He warned that, without careful management, tourism could become a source of community dissatisfaction.

By the 1990s, policymakers should have adopted tools to monitor this growing tension—but failed to act in its defense.

We, the traditional inhabitants of Aruba, are not anti-tourism. The issue is not tourism itself, but the nature and structure of the current tourism model—one that affects us more directly and aggressively than ever before.

Tourism in Aruba is expanding rapidly, to the point where it resembles a stationary cruise ship: cultural heritage is being commercialized, historical sites and Toponyms are misused, nature is under enormous pressure, and long-held traditions are slowly disappearing beneath layers of indifference.

This is why this cultural online platform Island Insight, created by Etnia Nativa in 2019, was born—to resist the loss of our roots and ten thousand moons of tradition.

More than just a blog, Island Insight is a cultural initiative led by a one-of-a-kind residential museum, founded by a native artist who has spent decades rescuing, documenting, and sharing the true soul of Aruba—from its Indigenous roots to its colonial legacy. Today, he continues to preserve and celebrate the island's authentic cultural identity.

In an increasingly interconnected global economy, mass tourism has exploded. While travel is not new, the speed and scale at which it now operates are overwhelming. Few places remain untouched, and even the most remote destinations are now packaged and sold as 'unique experiences.'

Aruba is beginning to push back against the effects of excessive tourism. The island is exceeding its carrying capacity, leading to serious consequences for our environment and native species. Places once sacred to locals are now overrun by visitors, generating resentment and unrest among residents.

Tourism undoubtedly brings financial benefits—offering an exchange of goods and services for recreation and leisure. But this is where we must pause and reconsider. On an island as fragile as ours, the environment, culture, and community are not just sce-



Photo from The New York Times

nic backdrops for consumption—they are living systems, and commodifying them comes at a real cost.

In recent years, tourism has begun to displace local residents—especially in the north district and along the coastal zone of Savaneta. Residential areas are being converted into short-term rentals, Airbnb, and boutique hotels, turning once-quiet neighborhoods into disruptive hotspots marked by late-night parties, flooded septic tanks, overflowing garbage bins, and speeding off-road vehicles.

These impacts are felt in daily life. Imagine being a local, rising early to enjoy a peaceful swim in Malmok, and find the area already crowded with tourists and rental vehicles—many hoping to swim with the now 'poor sea turtles.' We say 'poor' intentionally, as these creatures are becoming increasingly scarce. A thin film of oil from sunscreens and cosmetics often floats around them—a visible symbol of disregard for their well-being.

Our Caribbean Sea—with its clear turquoise waters, stunning landscapes, and year-round sunshine—is often marketed through an exotic one eye lens. From the glorified image of sea turtles and exotic birds to the use of socioeconomic struggles as a marketing tool, these narratives may attract visitors, but they also erase the lived realities of those who for many generations call this island home. Unfortunately—and to the detriment of its native people—Aruba has shifted its focus from high quality to cheap quantity.

Foreign investors made great use of our tax holidays. However this on the long run only had worsening the situation for the local tax payer. Causing the

increasing of the pension alleged age from 60 to 65. Weakening minimum wage's buying power, while forcing many to obtain a second income. A great deal of tourism generated profits, are repatriated, and when large portion of the industry's labor force is of foreign descent, more foreign exchange is expelled to foreign countries. This deficit requires tax increase or inflation, the artificial rising costs of living through all imports, utilities, food, gas, health care etc.— If the required knowhow and courage don't appear to sustain this tourism model—The gap between the industry's luxury offerings and the everyday lives of the average Aruban resident will continue to widening by the day.

This article is written by Etnia Nativa that offers a cultural perspective on the urgent need to rethink Aruba's tourism future and is a powerful embodiment of art, cultural heritage and sustainable living.□

But Etnia Nativa isn't just a place — it's a gateway. Quietly tucked away near the high-rise hotels, this private residence also serves as a cultural sanctuary, unknown to most tourists. And that's part of its magic. Intentionally exclusive, it welcomes only those with a genuine curiosity and a thirst for authentic discovery.

Connect with the spirit and soul of Aruba's ancient heritage through a one-of-a-kind experience.

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The stories of “Compa Nanzi”

(Oranjestad)—The most popular character you may hear about in the Caribbean is Anansi, known locally on Aruba as “Compa Nanzi”. Local children grew up hearing the tales of the conniving spider, and his legacy forms part of the oral narrative tradition that is common in Aruba.

Although the stories are most popular in the Caribbean, “Compa Nanzi” is not entirely unknown globally, especially not in the West African region. Brought to the “new world” by enslaved Africans from Ghana, the historical thread of how Nanzi was introduced on Aruba follows the enslaved Africans in Curacao during the colonial era, which saw the biggest population of enslaved Africans in the Dutch Caribbean.

The stories of Compa Nanzi were a sign of hope for freedom among the slaves, who passed around different stories involving the famous spider through word of mouth, due to not being able to express their native culture in the new world. These stories were a way to not only preserve their culture, but it acted as a medium for relief during the harsh treatment to which they were subjected to.

It wasn't until the end of the nineteenth century that the stories of Nanzi were written down in different languages. However, not all stories are completely alike in every country, as is the risk of oral story telling. However, one thing will always be

dominant in Compa Nanzi's stories: his sneaky ways to get what he wants!

How Nanzi fooled the king

One day Nanzi was taking a stroll near the castle of Shon Arei, the king. He had this sudden urge to walk in. He didn't think too much about it and committed to what he had in mind. It was a warm afternoon, and the castle personnel were taking their afternoon nap. Even the soldier guarding the castle door was fast asleep, snoring so loud that his beard bounced up and down on his chin. Nanzi just slipped past him, looked back for a moment then walk right on in.

Nanzi stumbled upon the king's quarters. With all his excitement he sat in the king's throne, and put on his crown that was hanging on the side of the throne. It was very hot that day, and it wasn't long until Nanzi too fell asleep, right there on the king's throne. He was so deep in sleep and snoring so loud, that even when the king found him in his seat, Nanzi did not even notice.

Shon Arei was flabbergasted by the sight of Nanzi on his throne, wearing his crown. How disrespectful! “Soldiers, get him!” he commanded. Nanzi was sound asleep, but when the soldiers picked him up, he jumped from fright. By then though, the soldier already had him in their hold.



“Put him in a sack, stitch it up and throw him in the ocean!” the king said furiously. Two soldiers immediately entered the chamber, took the crown off Nanzi's head and pushed him in a sack.

Nanzi was terrified; it looks like this time he won't get away with his schemes. To get to the ocean, the soldier walked a long distance, and where beginning to feel very thirsty. Luckily they passed by a pub, and decided to have a nice cold beer. They set the sack with Nanzi in it outside and went to enjoy the refreshments. Nanzi was still trembling with fear in the sack.

What is that he hears? A herd of sheep walking by?

“Compadre, listen here!” Nanzi screamed as loud as he could. The sheep herder got close to the sack. “What is this?”

“Man, there is something very beautiful in here that you can see. It's very rare and strange, but indeed, there is something so beautiful in here that you've never seen or will ever see,” Nanzi told the herder.

The herder, very dumb, believed Nanzi's word. “Let me see!” he said. “Well if you must insist,” Nanzi said, “I'll let you take a look, but only for a quick second.” The herder opened the sack, and Nanzi immediately jumped out. Before the herder could even take a look into the sack, Nanzi pushed him in it, and the herder fell head first in.

Nanzi didn't waste any time, and closed off the sack real tight. He then picked up the herder's hat and started walking behind the traveling sheep as if nothing happened. Af-

ter a little while, the soldiers headed back outside to continue their journey. As they picked up the sack, the poor herder started screaming to let him out, but the soldiers ignored him, thinking it was Nanzi.

Shon Arei went strolling a while later. He thought to himself: “This time Nanzi could not get away with his foolishness. He probably drowned in that sack ages ago.” That is why, when he saw Nanzi walk behind the herd of sheep on the street, he was flabbergasted again. “Nanzi! Aren't you suppose to be at the bottom of the ocean floor?”

“I was, Your Majesty,” Nanzi replied. But you know what, there is so many things to see down there in the sack! Like this herd of sheep. Seeing that they had no herder, I started walking behind them and gained their trust pretty quickly. At the bottom of the ocean there are so many wonderful things, like diamonds, and bags of gold. Chests of silver and other precious stones,” Nanzi told the king.

“What is that you say?” the king was intrigued. “I want to see it too!” The king immediately demanded to his soldiers to be put in a sack and be placed in the ocean. Naturally, Shon Arei died because of this. He was never found again. Nanzi followed the soldier back to the castle, where sat once again on the late king's thrown and put his crown on. He took possession of all of Shon Arei's belongings, and lived the rest of his life as king.

Story and pictures are from “Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)” by Nilda Pinto.



CROSSWORD

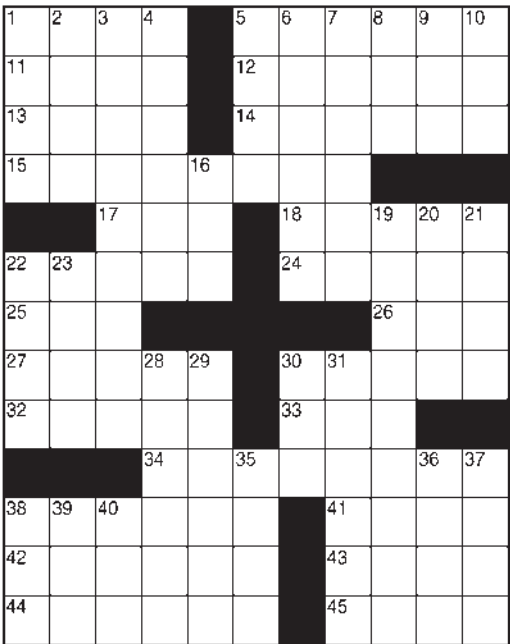
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Plucked instrument
- 5 Words from JFK's inaugural address
- 11 Lotion additive
- 12 1965 TV western
- 13 Fly catchers
- 14 Small crown
- 15 Didn't panic
- 17 "Evil Woman" band
- 18 Thompson of "Creed"
- 22 Played a role
- 24 Spoken tests
- 25 "Cheers" setting
- 26 Atlas page
- 27 Spots for tots
- 30 Scout settlements
- 32 Get some shuteye
- 33 Thurman of film
- 34 Emmy-winning police drama
- 38 Infant outfit
- 41 "Damn Yankees" role
- 42 "Bye!"
- 43 Taverns
- 44 Play-ground fixtures
- 45 Tidy

DOWN

- 1 War backer
- 2 Out of the wind
- 3 Emmy-winning role for Dick Van Dyke
- 4 Mortar's mate
- 5 Alan with Emmys
- 6 Reach by boat
- 7 Emmy-winning role for Michael Richards
- 8 Homer's neighbor
- 9 Lyric poem
- 10 Selleck of "Blue Bloods"
- 16 Atlantic catch
- 19 TV role for Ted Danson
- 20 Open-handed hit
- 21 Nile snakes
- 22 Basics
- 23 Lenny's pal on "The Simpsons"
- 28 Emmy-winning role for Robert Guillaume
- 29 Bond activity
- 30 Cow's chew
- 31 Spielberg's production company
- 35 Violin parts
- 36 Arm bone
- 37 Sunrise site
- 38 CIA forerunner
- 39 Right away
- 40 Yale student



9-14

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-14 CRYPTOQUOTE

HMFKEF WZY'H W CWY AZIZY'

OMJ MWEY'H HWANFG HJ MZE

GJS. — MWYN OZAAZWCE EK.
Cryptoquote: THE HISTORY OF LIFE
ON EARTH IS MOSTLY AN OCEAN HISTORY. ...
THE OCEAN IS REALLY WHERE THE ACTION IS.
— SYLVIA EARLE

Cruise ship Schedule: Sep 02 - 18 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	CALLS
TUE	02	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
TUE	09	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	07.00	16.00	C	1
WED	10	CARNIVAL VISTA	08.00	16.00	C	1
		RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	B	1
THU	11	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	17.00	C	1
TUE	16	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1

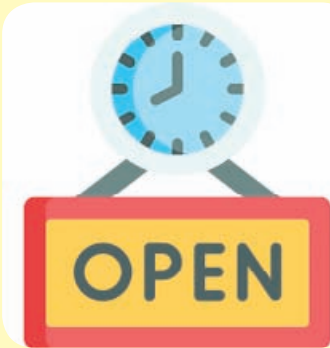
Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



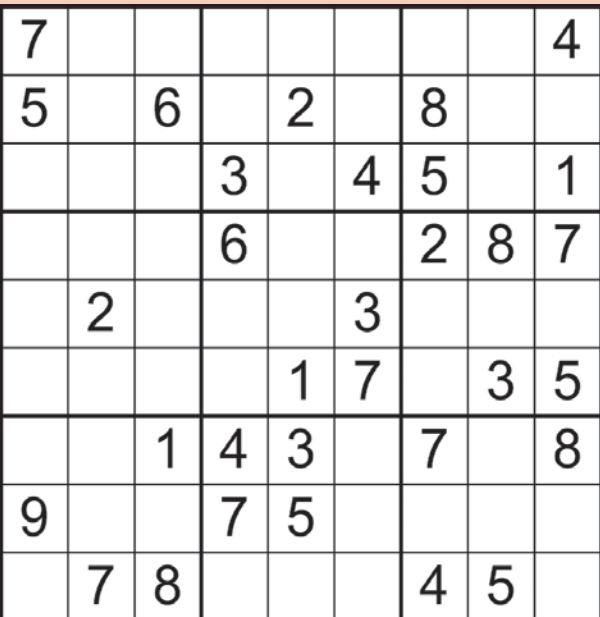
Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku



Difficulty: ★★★

9/10

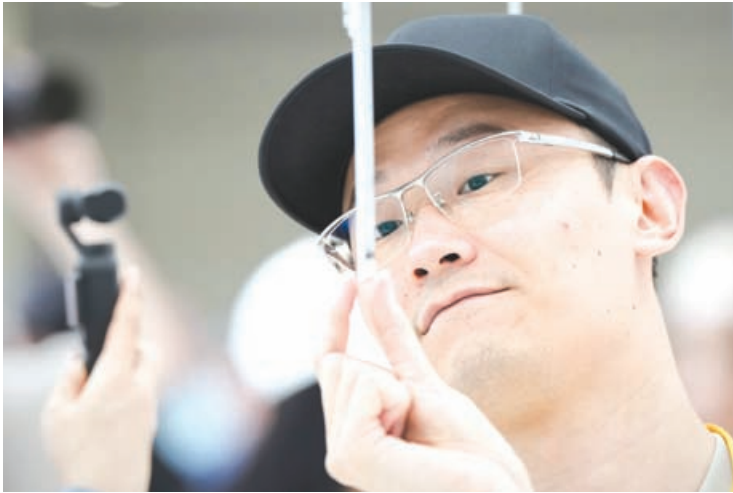
Answer to previous puzzle

2	9	7	8	5	4	6	1	3
5	6	4	1	3	7	8	2	9
1	3	8	9	2	6	7	4	5
9	4	2	7	8	3	1	5	6
8	1	3	2	6	5	9	7	4
6	7	5	4	1	9	2	3	8
3	5	1	6	9	2	4	8	7
4	8	9	3	7	1	5	6	2
7	2	6	5	4	8	3	9	1

Difficulty: ★★

9/9

Apple's iPhone 17 line-up includes a new ultra-thin model and \$100 price hike for Pro model



An attendee takes a closer look at the iPhone Air during an announcement of new products at Apple Park on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025, in Cupertino, Calif.

Associated Press

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE**
AP Technology Writer
CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP) — Apple on Tuesday rolled out its next generation of iPhones that includes a new ultra-thin model and a slight price hike for one of its high-end models, while the company feels the squeeze of a global trade war.

The iPhone 17 line-up includes a new slimmed-down model that will adopt the "Air" name that Apple already uses for its sleekest iPads and Mac computers. In what has become an annual rite for Apple, all four new iPhone 17 models will feature better cameras and longer-lasting batteries than last year's line-up. The iPhone 17 will all boast

at least 256 gigabytes of storage, doubling the minimum amount from the last generation.

"We are raising the bar again," Apple CEO Tim Cook boasted in front of a crowd gathered in an auditorium named after the company's late co-founder, Steve Jobs, located on its campus in Cupertino, California.

The new iPhones are the first to be released since President Donald Trump returned to the White House and unleashed a barrage of tariffs, in what his administration says is an attempt to bring overseas manufacturing back to the U.S. a crusade that has thrust Cook into the hot seat.

All the iPhone 17 models

are still expected to be made in Apple's manufacturing hubs in China and India, exposing them to some of Trump's tariffs. Analysts believe the additional fees on iPhones coming into the U.S. increase the pressure on Apple to raise prices to help protect its profit margins on its most marquee product.

Without giving a specific reason, Apple will charge \$1,100 for the iPhone 17 Pro, an increase of \$100, or 10%, from previous versions of that model. The iPhone Air will start at \$1,000 the price of last year's iPhone 16 Pro. □

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Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
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Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

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Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

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FAVI- Visually Impaired
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Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

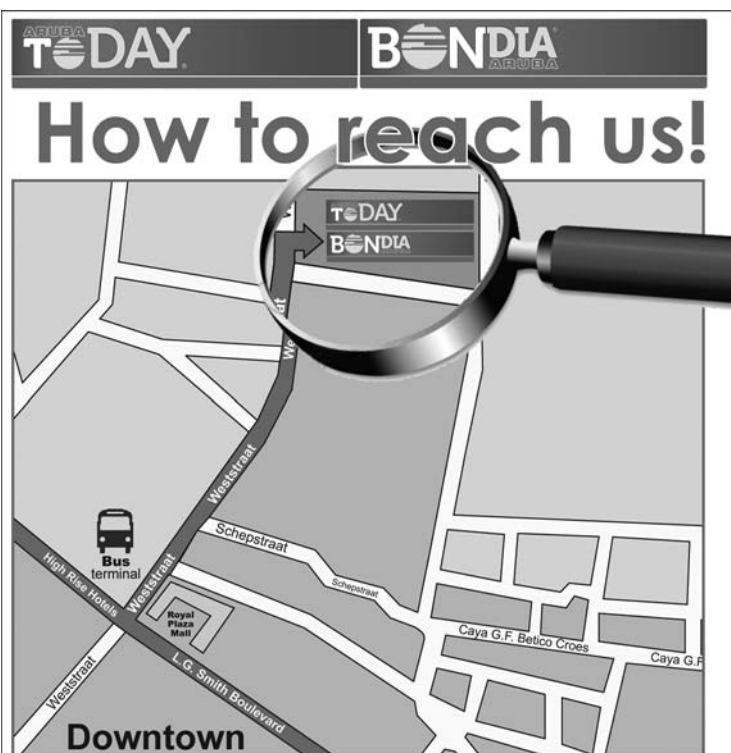
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS



New data shows the U.S. job market was much weaker than thought in 2024, and this year as well

By **PAUL WISEMAN**
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. job market was much weaker in 2024 and early this year than originally reported, adding to concerns about the health of the nation's economy. Employers added 911,000 fewer jobs than originally reported in the year that ended in March 2025, the Labor Department reported Tuesday. The department issues the so-called benchmark revisions every year. They are intended to better account for new businesses and ones that had gone out of business. The numbers issued Tuesday are preliminary. Final revisions will come out in February 2026.

The revision showed that leisure and hospitality firms including hotels and restaurants added 176,000 fewer jobs than originally reported, professional and business services companies 158,000 fewer and retailers 126,000 fewer.

The report comes after the department reported Friday that the economy generated just 22,000 jobs in August, adding to fears



A construction worker carries steel decking at the site of a construction of a housing project, Thursday, July 31, 2025, in Portland, Maine.

Associated Press

that President Donald Trump's erratic economic policies, including massive and unpredictable taxes on imports, have created so much uncertainty that businesses are reluctant to hire.

Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets said the revisions painted "a much weaker portrait of the job market than initially thought. While the

revision doesn't say much about what has happened since March, it suggests the labor market had less momentum heading into the trade war. And, recent data suggest the market has downshifted further." Since March, monthly job creation has decelerated to an average 53,000.

When the preliminary benchmark revisions last year showed 818,000 fewer

er jobs in the year ended March 2024, then-presidential candidate Trump declared the numbers had been rigged to conceal economic weakness and help Democrats in the 2024 election. However, he did not explain why the government would release the revised numbers two and a half months before voters went to the polls. (The final revisions for the 12 months

that ended March 2024, which came out in February this year, were less dramatic but still bad: Payrolls ended up 589,000 lower than originally reported.) The latest revisions will likely increase pressure on the Federal Reserve to cut its benchmark interest rate at its meeting next week to give the economy a boost. James Knightley, an economist at ING, also expects the Fed to cut again at its meetings in October and December.

In a commentary, Knightley wrote that the Labor Department numbers "can be significantly wrong" when the economy is at a turning point. "In the early stages of a downturn they tend to overestimate the jobs created by new start-ups 'births' and underestimate the number of jobs lost by the 'death' of failing small businesses," he wrote. "These revisions suggest that jobs momentum is being lost from an even weaker position than originally thought. It also reinforces the belief that even the poor numbers seen in 2025 are probably overstating the health of the employment market." □

Cracker Barrel suspends plans to remodel restaurants after logo blowup

By **DEE-ANN DURBIN**
AP Business Writer

Cracker Barrel said Tuesday it's suspending remodels of its restaurants after criticism from many long-

time fans.

The announcement came two weeks after Cracker Barrel backtracked on a separate plan to modernize and simplify its logo.



The Cracker Barrel Old Country Store logo in Pearl, Miss., is photographed, Sept. 12, 2023.

Associated Press

Fans of the chain had also loudly criticized that move. Lebanon, Tennessee-based Cracker Barrel said Tuesday that just four of its 660 restaurants had been remodeled as part of a test for the brand. The remodels, which began last year, added more comfortable seating, brighter lights, lighter paint and a simplified assortment of antiques but kept signature elements like fireplaces.

"We heard clearly that the modern remodel design does not reflect what you love about Cracker Barrel," the company said in a statement.

"Of course, we will continue to invest in our restaurants to make sure that they are in good shape

and meet your expectations."

Cracker Barrel announced a transformation plan in May 2024 under its new CEO, Julie Felss Masino, a former executive at Taco Bell and Starbucks. Masino said Cracker Barrel was losing its relevance and needed some changes to boost customer traffic. In addition to remodeled stores, the chain planned new dinner menu items and more efficient kitchens.

At the time, Masino said Cracker Barrel planned to remodel 25 to 30 stores in its 2025 fiscal year, which ended July 31.

"Historically, Cracker Barrel has made limited changes to our design aesthetic,

and we've probably relied a little too much on what was perceived to be the timeless nature of our concept," Masino said during a conference call with investors.

Masino said the company had received positive customer feedback after remodeling two stores.

"The goal, simply put, was to freshen things in such a way as to be noticeable and attractive but still feel like Cracker Barrel," she said.

But the changes didn't sit well with many customers, especially after Cracker Barrel announced it planned to simplify its logo and remove a picture of an overall-clad man leaning on a barrel. □

Eagles' Jalen Carter avoids suspension, is fined \$57,222 for spitting on Cowboys QB Dak Prescott

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP Pro Football Writer

Jalen Carter was fined \$57,222 by the NFL but avoided another suspension after spitting on Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott seconds into the league's season opener Thursday night.

The Pro Bowl defensive tackle was ejected from Philadelphia's 24-20 victory over Dallas before playing a snap. He's expected to be on the field when the Eagles face the Kansas City Chiefs in a Super Bowl rematch on Sunday. The team could impose its own discipline such as benching Carter for the first play, the first series or longer.

The NFL is calling Carter's discipline a one-game suspension with time served because he didn't play against the Cowboys. It's an important distinction that sets a precedent and sends a message to players that spitting on an opponent will result in a one-game suspension. Carter isn't appealing his penalty.

"I'm going to keep everything that I do with him private, regardless of if you see it on Sunday or not," Eagles coach Nick Sirianni said Monday about his



Philadelphia Eagles defensive tackle Jalen Carter (98) walks off the field after being disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct before an NFL football game against the Dallas Cowboys Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025, in Philadelphia.

best defensive player. "Everything, every conversation, whether it's a personal conversation, a disciplinary thing, all those things will always be handled privately. I just think that's the way to go about doing team business and when you're doing things with a football team."

Carter apologized for being disqualified from the game. Players have been fined for spitting on opponents in the past, but there

wasn't a case where anyone was suspended for doing it.

Carter's infraction came moments after the franchise's second Super Bowl banner was raised. He was penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct before the first snap from scrimmage while trainers were attending to an injury on the kickoff.

Carter approached Prescott after the quarterback had stepped up in the huddle, stood between

two of his linemen and spit on the ground in the direction of Carter, who was several yards away.

The two players exchanged words before Carter spit on Prescott's jersey and then backed away. Prescott quickly motioned to a nearby official, who threw the flag.

It was an easy call after the league made it clear that enforcing sportsmanship would be a point of emphasis this season.

"It was a mistake that happened on my side. It won't happen again," Carter said after the game. "I feel bad for just my teammates and fans out there. I'm doing it for them. I'm doing it for my family, also. But the fans, they showed the most love."

Prescott said he simply spit straight ahead, explaining he does so often during games. His saliva landed near Carter, which raised his ire.

Prescott said Carter asked: "You trying to spit on me?"

"I wouldn't spit on somebody. I'm definitely not trying to spit on you. We're about to play a game," Prescott said.

Carter has previously demonstrated a pattern of poor discipline.

He was penalized three times for unnecessary roughness last season and was also benched to start a game in a disciplinary move by Sirianni. One of Carter's penalties in a game against Pittsburgh last December led to Sirianni having a heated conversation with defensive line coach Clint Hurtt, who stood in front of the player on the sideline when the coach approached him. □

Associated Press

Tampa Bay Rays' Wander Franco has been detained and admitted into a clinic for mental health issues

By **MARTÍN ADAMES**
Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Suspended Tampa Bay Rays shortstop Wander Franco, who was found guilty earlier this year of sexually abusing a minor, was detained by police on Tuesday and admitted into a clinic in the Dominican Republic for mental health issues, according to authorities.

The request to have him detained and admitted came from his family, police spokesman Col. Diego Pesqueira told The Associated Press. He noted that Franco's admittance into a private clinic in his home-

town of Baní is not linked to any legal issues.

Last weekend, the 24-year-old player took to social media to denounce that \$16,000 had supposedly been stolen from a resort where he was staying.

His attorney, Teodosio Jáquez, later said there was confusion over the incident and that the money was found. Franco, however, rejected his attorney's remarks and insisted the money had been stolen.

In June, Franco was convicted of sexually abusing a minor and was given a two-year suspended sentence. He had been arrested in 2024 after being accused

of having a four-month relationship with a girl who was 14 at the time, and

of transferring thousands of dollars to her mother to consent to the illegal rela-

tionship.

Franco's future in the MLB is unknown, although he has said he is still training.

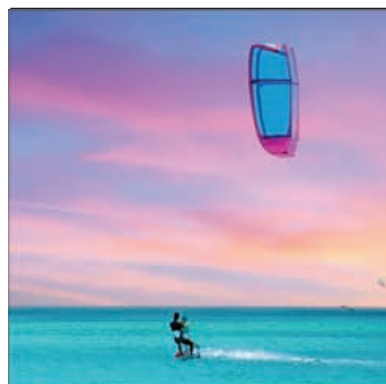
In November 2021, Franco signed an 11-year, \$182 million contract, but his career was abruptly interrupted in August 2023, when Dominican authorities announced they were investigating him..

Franco was arrested again in November last year following what Dominican authorities called an altercation over a woman's attention. He was charged with illegally carrying a semiautomatic Glock 19 that police said was registered to his uncle. □



Wander Franco received a two-year suspended sentence in June after being found guilty of sexual abuse of a minor.

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Tale of two cups: Ryder Cup has Seve and Europe, and Walker Cup has only American dominance

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer
PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP)

— The late British golf writer Peter Dobereiner never liked the idea of continental Europe being invited to take part in the Ryder Cup, regardless of the Americans winning all but one time over the previous 30 years.

He no doubt would feel the same if that were to happen with the Walker Cup.

"So the Ryder Cup is dead. It was quietly put down to prevent further suffering and the body was interred in an unmarked grave," Dobereiner wrote for The Observer after the June 1978 decision that Great Britain & Ireland needed help.

That much was true, and Dobereiner conceded as much. "I only wish they could provide a new trophy and a new name for this new competition," he wrote. Golf has never been terribly keen on change. So the Ryder Cup as Dobereiner knew it died that day, and so did American dominance.

Dating to the 1979 matches the birth of the modern Ryder Cup Europe has gone home with the gold trophy 13 of the last 22 times. The next chance is in two weeks at Bethpage Black, where Europe returns 11 of the 12 players that beat up on the Americans in Rome in 2023.

But that 1978 decision to add Europe might not have happened without one player. This wasn't just about adding numbers to battle the mighty Americans.

This was about Seve Ballesteros.

Whether the European players wear the image of



The USA team players and supporters celebrate after defeating the Great Britain and Ireland team in the Walker Cup golf tournament at Cypress Point Club on Sunday, Sept. 7, 2025, in Pebble Beach, Calif.

Associated Press

the late Spanish great on their sleeves or keep him in their hearts, Ballesteros remains the emblem of European success. He made it personal. He made winning the Ryder Cup feel more important than anything else they did.

It's what led former U.S. captain Paul Azinger to say about the Ryder Cup: "In America, it's in our head. We desperately want to win. But over there, it's in their blood. It's part of the fabric of their soul. It's what they deem as the most relevant thing in their life."

Is there a Seve Ballesteros who can do the same for the Walker Cup?

The latest American victory Sunday at Cypress Point was a reminder that two century-old golf matches between teams on either side of the Atlantic Ocean only look similar in the format, the ceremonies and the occasional games-

manship.

The obvious difference is the wealth of the players. The Walker Cup, which began in 1922, is for amateurs. The rosters are slightly smaller and the competition is two days instead of three. The only team matches are foursomes.

And it's worth noting the venue. The Walker Cup goes to the most celebrated courses it can find, not just those that offer the most money. Future sites include Lahinch in Ireland and Prince's in England, Chicago Golf, Oakmont and Pine Valley in America. But it's still about the flag two of them for GB&I, the Union Jack and Ireland. It's still about competing for little more than pride and a cup.

Even so, the Walker Cup is becoming as predictable as the Ryder Cup in the Before Seve era. The 17-9 victory on Sunday was the fifth

in a row for the Americans. They have outscore GB&I 80-50 in those last five wins. "We came here with a focus to raise our standard, to emulate what's only been done twice in 100 years," GB&I captain Dean Robertson said. He was referring to the two times two! GB&I managed to win on U.S. soil.

On paper and on grass, in sunshine and fog on the Monterey Peninsula, it was a mismatch.

The Americans had eight players from the top 13 in the world amateur ranking. The lone taxpayer on the team, 34-year-old Stewart Hagestad, was at No. 44. The 10th player was Mason Howell, the 18-year-old U.S. Amateur champion who might just be getting started.

GB&I countered with three players in the top 30, with Tyler Weaver leading the way at No. 10.

The Americans went 14-4 in the singles matches over both days. The depth was too much. The result became inevitable.

Would adding continental Europe help? Not at the moment.

Filip Jakubcik of Czechia (No. 7), Árni Sveinsson of Iceland (No. 14) and Michael Mjaaseth of Norway (No. 20) are the only Europeans currently among the top 20 in the world amateur ranking. Jakubcik (Arizona) and Mjaaseth (Arizona State) are seniors.

Besides, there is no amateur version of Seve, and there is no need to make any changes now.

The Walker Cup is moving to even-numbered years to avoid competing with the World Amateur Team matches, so GB&I has to wait until only next year at Lahinch to try again.

"They'll grow from this," Robertson said. "As much as losing sucks, if it didn't, then winning wouldn't matter."

Even if more continental Europeans fill the pipeline, they won't stay amateurs for long. Perhaps that's one reason the two amateur versions of the trans-Atlantic cups the Walker Cup and Curtis Cup are between America and the British Isles, as it always has been.

The Curtis Cup for female amateurs dates to 1932, while the professional version (Solheim Cup) dates to 1990 and always included Europe.

The Seve factor doesn't apply to amateur golf, and that's not a bad thing. At the moment, the Walker Cup is one competition the Americans can still win with regularity. □